

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORT
TOPIC Brandis Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 6 September 1954

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____REMARKS _____

1. Between 2 and 15 August 1954, there was no air activity at Brandis airfield. Only a few aircraft which had come from another airfield individually landed at Brandis airfield and, after a short time, took off again. The hangars were permanently closed and the landing field was used as pasture by sheep and horses. All the radio installations and apparently the lighting facilities were removed.¹ The following observations were made with regard to the non-local aircraft which mostly practiced over Brandis:

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3 August. At 0815 and 0820, an element of 2 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s crossed over the field flying from south to north at an estimated altitude of 6,000 meters. Shortly before 1000, 2 elements crossed in the opposite direction. A Li-2 landed at the field at 1000 and, after 1 hour, took off heading northeast. An Il-10 landed at 1330, coming from the north. It again took off at 1400 heading north.

4 August. During the morning, firing at towed sleeve targets was practiced over the field at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters. Two sleeve targets were repeatedly observed aloft at the same time. Each of the sleeve targets was attacked by a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 which flew slightly higher than the towing plane. The attacking aircraft approached from the rear at an angle of about 45 degrees and gave short bursts of fire apparently with guns of about 20 mm.

5 and 6 August and from 9 to 15 August. There was little air activity by MiG-15s or conventional aircraft.

2. The following information was obtained from Germans who occasionally worked at the field and had connections to Soviet personnel stationed there: The quartering buildings were only slightly occupied by an estimated 250 men, allegedly air force soldiers as well as some soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and members of a driving school. The officer in charge of the field allegedly belonged to an AA unit. Soldiers who temporarily returned from Finsterwalde stated that the unit would be retransferred to Brandis in September.

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3. In early August, the two temporary buildings near the AA gun emplacement had disappeared. Shrapnelproof aircraft revetments seen at the field included 3 at the western edge of the field, between the taxiway and the road running along the western border; 3 located either south or north of the taxiway; and 5 at the southern edge of the field. The sheds in the southeastern section of the field and the single temporary building northeast of the sheds were still available.¹

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4. At 1730 on 11 August, 9 apparently new unnumbered two-axle tank trucks with trailers made practice drives in the area. The vehicles apparently were empty as they were also driven through the uneven terrain.

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1. Comment. The ground attack regiment from Brandis airfield is temporarily stationed at Alt Loennowitz and Finsterwalde airfields for re-training with MiG-15s. The information on the removal of the radio installations and lighting facilities tends to indicate that, after the return of the regiment, these installations will be re-erected in accordance with the requirements of MiG-15s. It cannot be rated whether the pilots will complete their training in September and then return to the field. As the hangars were permanently closed it could not be determined whether they were occupied by the Il-10s previously stationed at the field. No new observations on the departure of Il-10s have been made.

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2. Comment. Probably new tank trucks for the refueling of MiG-15s arrived at the field. Motor vehicle has previously been observed in Werneuchen and in Grossenhain.

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